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and into the woods

Whale Song

7 Not too hot to handle
Students take the heat

Oct. 23- Nov. 6, 2006

Vol. 27 No. 1

The new student voice of UAS

Juneau ♦ Sitka ♦ Ketchikan

Changes on the menu for UAS cafeteria

Food service companies bid on campus contract

By David Asti
Whalesong

Students likely will see a change in the menu and the look of the cafeteria when a major food service company takes over next year.

For the first time, the University of Alaska is asking major food and facilities service companies to bid on its dining services campus wide, which includes University of Alaska Southeast (UAS). Currently the Anchorage and Fairbanks campuses are outsourced, yet the Juneau campus is managed as part of the campus services.

Three major food and facilities services companies participated in

information gathering sessions to prepare for bidding on the university contract. Aramark, which currently serves the Anchorage campus, and Sodexo-Nana, which serves Fairbanks campus, both sent representatives to visit UAS and indicated they plan to bid. The third company bidding is Chartwells, whose presence is found in the Juneau International Airport.

The information gathering period concluded in the beginning of October. Next the University of Alaska Fairbanks procurement task force will issue the request for proposal. After two months the bids will be reviewed by a nine panel team of three faculty

See CAFETERIA on page 6



Photo by Will Flynn / Whalesong

Cafeteria: A cook prepares a sandwich for a student in the UAS cafeteria.

Board of Regents approve 7 percent tuition hike to support operations costs

Need-based tuition denied

By Molly Carver
The Northern Light, UAA

The UA Board of Regents voted in favor of a 7 percent increase in tuition during its meeting at UAA in an 8-2 vote on Sept. 22. After hearing extensive public testimony both supporting and opposing the raise, the regents agreed to the increase that will keep pace with rising operational costs for the university but voted down a measure that would have added between 1 and 3 percent in tuition that would have been used to pay for need-based financial aid.

President Mark Hamilton expressed his pleasure regarding the proceedings

of the meeting and explained that student testimony ultimately persuaded the board members to reconsider attaching the additional 1-3 percent increase.

"The students were just so involved in this issue. They went through it and rejected the idea of needs-based. It is done at many other universities, but the students were very clear on that and said it shouldn't be done here," Hamilton said. "And obviously, the board responded by saying, no, we're not going there."

UAA Chancellor Elaine Maimon also applauded the active participation of many students at the meeting.

"The University of Alaska has one of the lowest tuition prices in the United States and yet we have this very low affordability rating," said

Maimon. "Our students looked at that, studied it and came up with excellent arguments for why that was not a good thing for our student population. It was just a great example of the student input in a constructive and positive way."

Maimon also praised the student leadership involved in the presentation of the idea of grandfathering tuition credits.

"They came up with the idea of grandfathering tuition," she said, "the idea that the tuition someone pays as a freshman is the same amount they will be paying as a senior."

Regent Robert Martin of Juneau, who was one of the two regents to vote against the tuition increase, explained that he didn't support the

See TUITION on page 4

Proposal would create major savings

Declaring an academic major could be a major savings for UA students, if the Board of Regents accepts a proposal made by UAS Senate President William Andrews.

Andrews has suggested that the university freeze the tuition for students on a declared four-year sequence to graduation. As long as they stay on track to graduate, the tuition would remain at the level it was when they enrolled.

The proposal comes in response to a move by the regents to raise UA tuition 7 percent. The tuition increase is partially prompted by the administrative cost of handling large numbers of undeclared students, Andrews said.

"The administration argues that they're raising tuition rates because there are a lot of undeclared students out there that are just taking courses randomly. I call it academic tire kicking," Andrews said.

The idea of freezing tuition for declared majors would be to provide a reward for students in an academic degree program.

Andrews brought the suggestion to the Regents attention at a meeting in

See PROPOSAL on page 4

271
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OCT 23-NOV 6,
2006
OVERSIZE

Monday - 23

Night Gallery Film Festival
3 p.m. - 11 p.m.
Nearly 100 films from around the world, including selections from several local filmmakers.
Silverbow Restaurant
Free
Contact Greg Chaney, 586-2594

Marine Biology Club
5 p.m.
Every second Monday
Learning Center

Tuesday - 24

Domestic Violence Information Table
11-1 p.m.
Mourant Building

Wednesday - 25

Domestic Violence Information Table
11-1 p.m.
Mourant Building

Ice Cream Social
3 p.m.
Mourant Cafeteria
Free
Contact housing.activities@uas.alaska.edu or 796-6528

Domestic Violence Movie
3-10 p.m.
Sponsored by the AWARE Shelter
Backroom at the Silverbow
(907) 586-4146

Ricci Adan—Master dancer
7:30-9:30 p.m.
Scottish Rite Temple, 4th and Seward
(907) 463-5327



Scary Stories on a Dark Evening
7 p.m.
Stories performed by professional storytellers and UAS students.
Egan Lecture Hall
Free
Contact Dr. Sue Koester, sue.koester@uas.alaska.edu, 796-6422

Beer and Wine Tasting
6 p.m.
UAS Alumni & Friends' 6th annual Beer & Wine Tasting to support scholarships for UAS students.
Prospector Hotel/ T.K. Maguire's
\$25 for members, \$30 general admission
Contact alumni@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6569

Thursday - 26

Big Read organizing meeting
5-6 p.m.
JAHC Gallery
Visit www.NEABigRead.org

Auditions for West Side Story
7-9:30 p.m.
Juneau Dance Unlimited
Contact 463-LEAP

"Why Humpback Whales Sing?"
7 p.m.
Evening at Egan lecture
Dr. James Darling, renowned whale researcher and co-founder of the West Coast Whale Research Foundation will shed light on the reasoning behind whale vocalization.
Egan Lecture Hall

Friday - 27

Casino Night
9 - 11 p.m.
Lodge

East Coast Swing Dance
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Centennial Hall
Contact Juneau International Folkdancers, 586-5283

Saturday - 28

Voice Club
2-3 p.m.
Student Housing Lodge
Contact marcuscarver@gmail.com or 790-9847

New Frontiers in Medicine: Predictive, Preventive, Personalized and Participatory
7 p.m.

Evening at Egan lecture
Dr. Leroy Hood, President, Institute for Systems Biology
Dr. Hood is the winner of the prestigious Lasker award, Kyoto Prize and the Lemelson-MIT Prize as the inventor of the automated

DNA sequencer.
Egan Lecture Hall

Costume Contest
Doc Waters Pub
2 Marine Way, Merchants Wharf
Contact (907) 586-3627

Halloween Dance
9 p.m. start
Rec Center

Contra-Dancing beginners welcome
7:30-9:30 p.m.
St. Anne's Hall, 6th & Gold St.

Sunday - 29

Priority registration for program students starts.

Tuesday - 31

Trick or Treating and Halloween Carnival for Kids
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
(SLIRP)

Wednesday - 1

Deadline to apply for Fall Graduation

Nursing program
5 p.m.
Discussion of requirements and deadlines
Glacier View Room, Egan
Contact Sarah Harvey, 796-6128

Barlett Series Lecture J.Kozol
7:30 p.m.
Rec Center

Thursday - 2

Barlett Series Lecture J.Kozol
7:30 p.m.
Rec Center

Friday - 3

New Frontiers in Medicine: Predictive, Preventive, Personalized and Participatory

7:00 PM
Evening at Egan lecture
Dr. Leroy Hood, President,

Institute for Systems Biology Dr. Hood is the winner of the prestigious Lasker award, Kyoto Prize and the Lemelson-MIT Prize as the inventor of the automated DNA sequencer that has transf
Egan Lecture Hall



Whalefest
Sitka
See page 6

Saturday - 4

Whalefest
Sitka
See page 6

Dinner and Movie
6-9 p.m.
Rec Center
Contact nrsc@uas.alaska.edu or 796-6454

Sunday - 5

Whalefest
Sitka
See page 6

Monday - 6

Priority registration for program students starts

Ongoing / Recurring

Ketchikan student government
Meets Mondays, 9:45 a.m.
Ziegler Building at UAS Ketchikan

Juneau student government
Meets Fridays, 2:30 p.m.
Lake Room, Mourant Building at UAS Juneau

Sitka student government
Meets Saturdays, 1:15-2:30 p.m.
Room 106 at UAS Sitka

Writer's Workshop
7 - 9 p.m. Mondays
Downtown Public Library
Contact Kristan at 789-9489

Calendar submissions

Events entered into the UAS Campus Calendar may also be included in the Whalesong. Enter events one of three ways:

1) Faculty with access to the CMS system can follow the instructions at <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/cms/content/calendar.html>

2) Fill out the Web form at <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/calendar/submit.html>

3) E-mail event details to webmaster@uas.alaska.edu.

Please include the event name, date, time and place, any cost and contact information. If there is a photo or logo associated with the event, submit as an attachment.

Non-campus events may be e-mailed directly to whalesong@uas.alaska.edu, att: Calendar. Please include the event name, date, time and place, any cost and contact information. If there is a photo or logo associated with the event, submit as an attachment.

All events will be included at the editor's discretion. To guarantee space in the Whalesong for your event, contact the Whalesong advertising manager, David Asti at jdsd5@uas.alaska.edu.

The Whalesong needs writers

If you would like to write for the Whalesong please e-mail: whalesong@uas.edu, or stop by 102 Mourant 7 p.m. Thursday or anytime Tuesday.

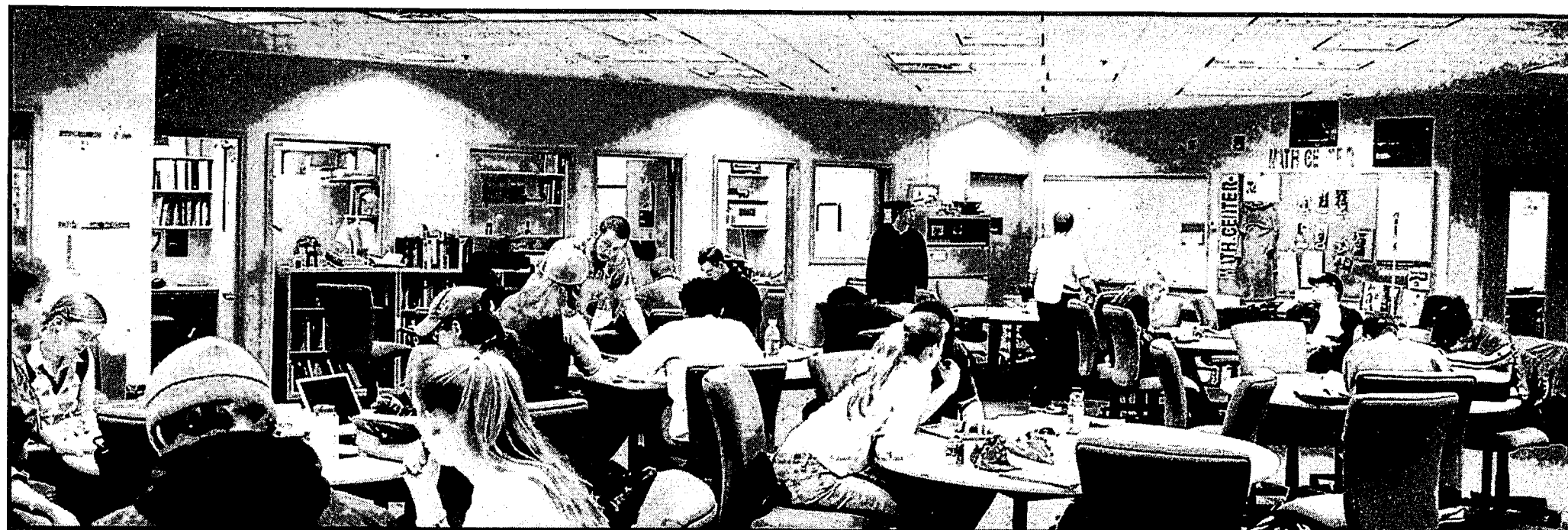


Photo by Will Flynn / Whalesong

A whole lot of learnin' goin' on: a crowded view of the Learning Center gives testament to the number of students seeking to better their scholastic performance.

Learning central - encouraging good study habits

By Laura Lemire
Whalesong

Most days the Learning Center hums with low voices from students scattered around the room and tutors wearing orange vests.

The Learning Center in the Egan Building provides a place to study and a little extra help to students struggling with school work or pushing to excel.

"Being in college is about making use of the opportunities available to you," said John Bilderbeck, Director of the Learning Center and Professor of Communications. "There is a whole university of staff available that want to see the students take advantage of what's here, not to just coast through."

The Learning Center resources are available to all University of Alaska students across the three campuses located in Juneau, Anchorage and Ketchikan. The exact number of students using the Learning Center is unknown as only the number of visits, roughly 3,000 a semester, is tracked.

"I go there to sit and study. My main thing there is math," said Ben Stathis, 19, a freshman from Livingston, Mont.. "Usually I'm sitting and studying, but if I need help, I've got people who can help me."

Stathis has a big gap between his classes and uses the Learning Center during the break, mostly to complete

homework.

"It's just a good student behavior to end up here," Bilderbeck said. "Sometimes all it takes is a helping hand. Any student should be able to come in here and I think that those that do leave here better prepared for class."

Many incoming freshman may not be prepared for the college workload, according to Dan Reiersen, a 27-year-old junior from Juneau majoring in business management.

"It really helps them be able to get that one-on-one time that they don't get with the teacher," Reiersen said. The facility offers many benefits that students should take advantage of, according to Stathis.

"I like how they have a lot of the books set up on the shelves," Stathis said. "I didn't have my book when I first came into class and they have a lot of the books available for you there. It would be cool if they had books you could check out."

English and math are the chief services available through tutors at the Learning Center. Many math classes require students to take tests based on the tutorial, so most math students use it, according to Michelle Loughhead, 20, a junior art major from Ketchikan.

"In that sense, we are serving a majority of the full-time students," Bilderbeck said.

The Writing Center is composed of writing fellows and student writing consultants, who can help students revise papers before submission.

"It was required for my first English class," Reiersen said. "For (English) 110, my first three or four papers had to be reviewed by a tutor. It's good practice for students."

There are also tutors specializing in other subjects of study, including accounting, physics, biology, foreign languages and chemistry.

The departments pay for these tutors while the Learning Center hosts them and gives them a place to work. The tutors typically work three or four hour shifts, according to Reiersen.

Bilderbeck would like to broaden the subjects covered at the Learning Center, expanding to include upper division courses, not just entry level.

Bilderbeck took the job as director of the program last August, succeeding Joe Millsap, and has made it a priority to make the service more user friendly.

One change was to align the offices to face outward, facing where the students sit instead of away. All tutors wear bright orange to distinguish themselves from students utilizing the programs or using the computers, which are an alternate lab resource on-campus, located on the right-hand side of the facility.

The atmosphere is conducive to studying, according to Bilderbeck, because it has more energy than the library but at the same time has more room for concentration than noisier places like the cafeteria.

Students shuffle through notes and tutors sit among them, helping them review their work. Another group sits to the right, using computers to revise essays and print out assignments pulled from their zip drives, dangling motionlessly.

Some students need a quiet environment to study in and to concentrate on the task at hand, but often in dorm-life or apartment housing there is background noise.

Reiersen stresses that students who come in shouldn't be afraid to ask questions, "Some kids come into the Learning Center that are really shy about asking, especially newer students, they won't know a lot."

Reiersen became a tutor in accounting when an accounting professor encouraged him to take the position. Tutors are trained and must be qualified enough to teach their respective subjects. In addition to the student tutors, there are also three professional tutors.

In the past, relations with the faculty had been minimal. That has changed, according to Bilderbeck. The program has been organized better internally

and has a stronger operation. The Learning Center has been working closely with Student Resources, improving relations, aiming to not be a segregated from the rest of the campus, and to outreach to the students.

Bilderbeck is considering holding campus workshops to take the program out to the students.

The Learning Center is a place for students interested in enhancing learning. The resources are easily obtainable, but it's up to the students to take the initiative.

Stathis encourages students to go in and check the benefits of the facility. "It's a lot of help if you feel like you want it or need it."

LEARNING CENTER HOURS

Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sun, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Closed Saturday



UA in Brief

University off-line

UAS lost Internet service for 11 hours on Oct. 16, due to a break in a fiber optic line essential to communication in northern Alaska and areas of the southeast.

The line, used primarily by Alaska Communications Systems, was also being used by GCI at the time. GCI's main fiber optic cable had broken earlier last week. Both companies use the same type of cable, Alaska Fiberstar.

Due to the fact that both companies were using the line, the effects were widespread. There was no long distance calling out from Fairbanks while the cable was damaged. A satellite telephone call was received reporting this, according to Joseph Nell, network manager at UAS.

"People in Fairbanks were cut off from the world for the most part," said Nell.

The line was severed around 9:30 a.m. between Talkeetna and Cantwell, where it runs near the railroad. The problem was identified and crews were sent out around 2:30 p.m. to survey the situation, they began remedying the problem around 6 p.m., according to Nell.

Without access to e-mail and the Internet, more students gathered in the Lodge to hang out. Connectivity was brought back around 7:50 p.m.

The break affected all three major UA campuses as well as the remote campuses, said Nell. Though the trouble occurred north of UAS, the campus' connectivity is consolidated at a statewide office, OIT, in Fairbanks, causing the disruption with the campuses further south.

- Laura Lemire, *Whalesong*

Anniversary toast

Students and staff will be able to toast the University of Alaska's golden anniversary during a gala celebration later this semester. The university's 50-year anniversary party will include a beer garden, Chancellor John Pugh assured UAS student senators on Oct. 6. Anyone aged 21 and over will be able to purchase and consume alcohol in a demarcated and controlled area. The gala will be held in the Recreation Center on Dec 9 starting at 7:00 p.m.

- John Sonin, *Whalesong*

Brewing for science

A student club has been asking Student Government to provide funding to purchase beer brewing equipment.

Lou Hoock started the Zymurgy Club in fall 2005 to explore organic chemistry through the science of beer-making. Similar clubs exist on other college campuses. The club brewed about 15 gallons, but had their funding removed after "word got around that we were drinking beer, because we opened one bottled beer to do the final gravity reading," Hoock said, a test done to determine alcohol content.

This fall Hoock has been lobbying student government to restore the club funding so it can purchase brewing equipment. Student Government president William Andrews said the request is in the rules and finance committee pending more information from the club. Currently the club has about 15 active members and an e-mail list of about 40 students, Hoock said.

-Whalesong

- John

... Tuition freeze considered

PROPOSAL from page 1

Anchorage last month and is now on the task force considering how the tuition freeze could be implemented. The task force will bring a formal proposal to the regents.

"The Board of Regents is excited about this idea, so I think it's pretty much something that's going to happen," Andrews said. "We just need to propose something that's going to be realistic; that's going to cut students a break but recognize that if you want a cheaper education you need to make a commitment."

Chancellor John Pugh thanked Andrews for the suggestion at a recent UAS student government meeting. Pugh said the regents appreciated the concept and would work-on the many implications — including students changing majors or needing more than four-years to graduate.

"It's not a unique idea to me," Andrews said, deflecting the accolades. Andrews said the idea had been considered by Saichi Oba, assistant to President Mark Hamilton and student senators from across the state.

Student liaisons to the UA administration

What is Student Government?

Student Government is a group of students elected by the students. They are elected because they are thought to best represent the students to administration and faculty. The student government representatives are the liaisons between the administration and faculty, who are always more than willing to help students find a reasonable and viable solution to their problems.

Student Government is also involved in meetings with the Board of Regents. The Board of Regents governs the University of Alaska, determining which campuses get which programs, how much money they receive for their budget and whether or not tuition will be raised. Those are just a few things the Board of Regents do.

Student Government also lobbies the legislature for the rights and needs of the students. During the legislative session student government representatives talk to legislators in order to get the Board of Regents budget approved to fund capital improvements like housing and new buildings. In summary, Student Government is a group of students elected by students to be their advocates on issues students find important.

What do they do?

Getting into slightly more specific details than the previous question, Student Government voices things loudly. Students have more influence in the system than they realize.



By Lindsey Forrest
Student Government Vice President

Student Government works to unify that voice all. This year the Student Government meets weekly, usually at 2:30 p.m. Fridays so that we can better understand the needs and wants of the students and how to voice those opinions clearly and concisely to the necessary people. Student Government sponsors and is involved in events such as winter games, Banff Film Festival, Legislative Affairs Conference, Leadership Conferences, Spring Formal, FAFSA Frenzy and various clubs.

What has Student Government done for the school and the students lately?

Most recently two Student Government officials, President William Andrews and Vice President Lindsey Forrest, went to a Board of Regents meeting and advocated against a tuition increase of more than 7 percent. If the tuition had gone over the recommended 7 percent, the extra percentages would have gone into a Needs Based

Financial Aid program for students.

All of the campuses, UAA, UAF, UAS and the smaller campuses, voiced together that this was an unnecessary burden for the students to have to take on and asked the Board of Regents to wait one year to decide whether or not to continue with this idea. In the meantime the Student Governments of all of these campuses pointed out to the Board of Regents that Alaska is one of the only states without a financial aid program funded by the state. All the Student Governments have agreed to lobby the Board of Regents to ask the legislature to create a financial aid program paid for by the state.

President Andrews put together the FAFSA workshops that will remind students to fill out their FAFSA's and also give them the chance to win an I-Pod. He proposed to the Coalition of Student Leaders the idea of grandfathering tuition for students enrolled into a degree program in the UA system. This would freeze the tuition rates for students who enter into degree programs for four to five years. The Board of Regents took this consideration to heart and said they are looking into options for making it a plausible policy. This is just an idea at this point.

Student Government is here for the students and is interested in hearing the concerns of students so we can work together for a positive outcome.

... Regents debate ramifications of tuition increase

TUITION from page 1

raise because he was not presented with proper justification for the necessity of an increase.

"I didn't hear what the alternatives were. I asked yesterday what were a list of things we would have to give up (if the increase wasn't implemented) and what the priority of those things were. And I didn't get a clear idea of what they were," Martin said. "I also have great sympathy because I was a student at university once and I know how difficult it can be to meet

those rising costs."

Additionally, Martin clarified his stance on using tuition increases to pay for a need-based financial aid program.

"Well, a lot of the people I grew up with and represent are very needy, but I don't believe that taxing the students who are in school to help pay for those who need help going to school is the right thing to do," he said.

USUAA Vice President Justice Brooks expressed a more negative reaction to the tuition increase.

"I think it's a travesty to the stu-

dents; I think the BOR needs to step up and take a stand against the UA administration," he said. "I also feel that the voice of the people was not heard adequately and that there was not enough student representation there."

The board also heard testimony from faculty, professors, students and community members concerning a myriad of other issues. Among these was the creation of an international studies program and the building of recreation facilities near the residence halls.



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Since 1981 The Whalesong has been the student newspaper for the University of Alaska Southeast. Published every other Monday during the semester, it is a free publication with a circulation of 1000 copies per issue. The Whalesong's primary audience includes students, faculty, staff, and community members at the three UAS campuses — Juneau, Ketchikan and Sitka.

As a student publication, the Whalesong encourages participation and contributions from students. Anyone interested in contributing to the Whalesong can contact the editor or adviser.

The Whalesong strives to inform readers on news pertinent to the college community and to serve as a public forum for the free exchange of ideas. The staff of The Whalesong values accuracy. If an error is printed in the Whalesong, please notify the staff so it can be corrected. The Whalesong also values freedom of expression and encourages reader response through letters to the editor. The views and opinions contained in this paper in no way represent the University of Alaska, and reflect only those of the author(s).

Whalesong gets a tune-up

Two-year-olds already know the most important question a person can ask: Why? Why do I do this? Why will this matter? Why will anyone care?

This fall UAS student journalists turned that question toward the Whalesong itself. Why do we put out a newspaper?

To inform. To communicate. To build a community. To entertain. To learn skills.

As they usually do in an interview, the answers led to the other questions reporters are trained to ask: who, what, where and when.

Who's the Whalesong for? The entire UAS system, including students and staff in Ketchikan, Sitka, and Juneau and students taking classes online.

What should it cover? News that's useful, timely, relevant, proximate and most importantly accurate: Campus activities and news; clubs and politics; the entire University of Alaska system. We've arranged with the student papers for the University of Anchorage and the University of Fairbanks to swap stories and photos so we can bring a broader range of news to UAS.

Where and when will it come out? We decided to create both paper and online versions to reach the most readers. Starting with this issue, the Whalesong will publish every other Monday this semester, take a winter break, and then be back with even more vigor in the new year.

Finally, how will we pull this off? You're holding the answer in your hands. After

weeks of consideration and work, after consulting professionals and studying the history of news from bards to blogs, after late hours toiling over words and designs, the Whalesong has been born anew.

This is just the start. To truly transform the Whalesong, it needs you. Several students are already contributing stories, photos and time to the paper.

The staff is small, but dedicated and talented.

Editor Laura Lemire brings a year of journalism experience from Norwich University in Vermont, where she received a strong grounding in news standards, style and ethics. Production manager Lexa Meyer has a degree in fine art and spent the last few weeks diligently learning the basics of news design as she created a fresh look for the Whalesong that is both clean and classic. Advertising manager David Asti is applying his years of sales experience to connect Juneau businesses with campus consumers through the Whalesong.

To add your voice, e-mail whalesong@uas.alaska.edu and tell us what you're interested in doing — writing news or feature stories, taking photos, drawing comics or something else. Notify us of newsworthy items on campus. Send press releases about your department. Suggest people to profile or stories you'd like to read. Make sure your club, sports and department events are in the calendar. If you see an error, send us a correction. Write letters. Most importantly, keep asking questions. We will try to find answers which, inevitably, will lead to more questions.

Osama's been lost in political games

By John S. Sonin

How is it possible that Osama bin Laden, even after the deaths of more than 3,000 innocent Americans and straining the U.S. economy by over a billion dollar a week expenditure in Iraq, has been able to evade apprehension? Why can't we locate one single man when we can pick someone wearing a "Bush Sucks!" t-shirt out of a peace demonstration from 23,000 miles out in space?

Did anyone ever come to our campus looking for Osama? I don't recall being stopped and questioned. I don't recall a National Guard assault to confiscate nail-clippers and flatware in a door-to-door dorm search. I don't recall any prohibitions on carrying liquids to class or the removal of toothpaste and hair gel from the bookstore. Where's the checkpoint on Egan or at the entrance off Loop Road?

How can our "fearless" Commander-in-Chief be certain Osama's not here? It reminds me of how I learned to embellish, deny, and outright lie as an ego-driven teenager, saying things neither time nor others could validate, thereby making them historical fact.

The funny thing isn't that Bush went running back

to his ranch when New York was being bombed 9-11 — and that's pretty hilarious — but that Osama's terrorists, the Taliban, appear to be regrouping in Afghanistan. Yet, if the words spoken and actions taken by G.W. last July 4 are any indication, the hunt for Osama has now officially ended. It looks like the G.W. Bush agenda of scaring the pants off voters has found we were all wearing Speedos underneath. Is there anything permanent in the prevaricating perception of our Grand Imperial Wizard, Gee Dubya Bush?

Everything in GeeDub's agenda of instilling fear, from the healthcare/pharmaceutical bamboozlement to the ongoing energy/defense joyride, has done nothing more than create MORE issues for his successors to reconcile. That is, if a healthy future becomes the objective. It was fear that Osama bin Laden and like-minded martyrs may commit other heinous acts that put Bush back in the White House with a lock-stepping Congressional majority, but I'm skeptical our economy can withstand two more years of his bumbling fiascos.

Where's Osama? Maybe we should try looking in GeeDub's back pocket!

Dear editor,

The single most important issue for the Juneau Area is the second crossing to Douglas Island, the North End. I met an old man who said, "You know, I was real young when this issue first came up."

Who knows what could happen if a second bridge was built on the North End of Douglas Island?

What if: There was a ferry terminal at the North End?

What if: There was a port on the South End for Tour Ships?

What if: There was a road on the outside edge of the South End that connected to Douglas Highway on the inside edge? Shaped like a horseshoe? The outside edge would go half-way up.

What if: There were electric-powered tour buses? Money for this would come from the cruise ship tax.

What if...what if...

Albert Judson
Juneau resident

Letters to the Editor

The Whalesong staff encourages letters to the editor.

Letters may not exceed 300 words and may be edited for length, clarity, and grammar. Letters must be signed and include a means of contact for verification.

Send your letters to: 11120 Glacier Highway, Juneau, AK 99801, or to whalesong@uas.alaska.edu, or by fax to (907) 465-6399, or bring them to Room 102 Maurant Bldg.



Order Up: Students will soon be able to choose more options at the Maurant Building Cafeteria.

Spotlight: Chef feeds student spirit



Photo by Will Flynn / Whalesong
Good food and lots of it: UAS head chef Pat Vallejo grills.

By Kathy Kolkhorst Ruddy
Whalesong

Nearly nine years cooking for college students taught Pat Vallejo the meaning of food: morale boosting power.

The tall, trim cook spoke while grilling a hamburger with sautéed mushrooms in the University of Alaska Southeast kitchen. Vallejo said he gets to know the students who come regularly for dinner, so that if they don't show up for dinner, he wonders where they are. He likes the personal contact he has with students and has "come to realize what food means to the student."

Years ago, Vallejo worked for the Olive Garden chain of restaurants in Oregon and Washington. He said the management told him to just follow the recipes, and not to taste any of the food during preparation. The memory still makes him shake his head in disbelief. He said he appreciates being able to personalize the food at UAS. When the hamburger was done,

Vallejo served it with fries, lettuce, tomato and pickle. He took the meal to the window, then hollered a student's name for pickup. A grateful, smiling face testified to someone who also liked the personal contact.

Vallejo grew up in southern Oregon, and had relatives in the food service industry. After graduating from high school, he served in the Army in the late 1970s. He originally came to Alaska to help out his sister and brother-in-law, who had a Chinese Restaurant in the Alaskan Hotel. He moved to Alaska full-time around 1981.

Asked if he would apply to the contractor for work if the UAS food services were contracted out, Vallejo said "Probably.... unless I win a million in the lottery."

Called back later to check a date, Vallejo was in the midst of serving meatloaf, potatoes au gratin, roasted red potatoes, peas and carrots, macaroni and cheese and homemade biscuits. "And I have people waiting, so I have to go!"

... More dining options coming

CAFETERIA from page 1

members from each campus (UAS will send Tish Satre, Dick Dent, and Jim Danielson). The team will choose a bid based on price, quality, program, capital improvement, offering, and record. University students will be involved in the decision making process in the upcoming weeks by answering surveys and talking to representatives of the food services companies.

Whichever company wins the food services contract is expected to renovate the UAS cafeteria, change the pricing structure and payment policy, and revamp the menu. Next year, UAS students may have a similar dining experience as the students from Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Both outsourced campuses offer a variety of meal plans to choose from. University of Alaska Anchorage students use their "wolfcard," to enter into an all-you-can-eat buffet style dining area during a specified time period. If the students need more flexibility in the dining time, they can also use their card to access money in their dining account and make purchases at other campus concessions, similar to the present system at UAS.

Sodexo-Nana handles the dining at Fairbanks in a similar fashion. The students use their "polar express" cards to either dine-in with an all-you-can-eat plan at set times in the cafeteria, or they can load the account with money to have more flexibility on what and when they eat at smaller dining locations on campus.

The flexibility of food options is one

of the concerns UAS students have with the plan to outsource the campus cafeteria. Heather Horton, a UAS student and part-time grill cook for the cafeteria, expressed dislike for an Aramark operated dining service she used while on exchange in Maine.

"The system there was an all-you-could-eat meal system with very specific meal times," said Horton. Furthermore, she said she was bored by the "unchanging meal choices the company scheduled."

Both Aramark and Sodexo-Nana have predetermined menus they serve according to a schedule that they set using input from the students.

Many UAS students seem excited by the possibility of eating a larger variety of specifically healthier foods. Tish Satre, from student activities and housing, is confident that this change will bring, "more nutritional information for the students." According to a 2005 report on nutrition education needs in Alaska by licensed nutritionist Elizabeth D. Nobmann, PhD, 64 percent of Alaskans are overweight. Students are not exempt from this study.

"Last year everybody gained weight," said Josh Hotch, a student and cafeteria staff member.

Both Hotch and Horton would like to see a larger assortment of healthy options and keep the quality of taste high. When surveying begins this month, students will have a chance to convey the types of food and the dining experience they want to whichever company wins the contract.

Students and faculty fight fires in the name of safety

By Laura Lemire
Whalesong

"Fire! Fire! Fire!" biology major, Ryia Waldern yelled as flames shot up in the university parking lot.

Armed with an extinguisher, Waldern combated the flames and within moments the blaze died back down into the metal pan where it had been set. Fire fighters stood by, giving Waldern instructions as part of the fire safety demonstration on Oct. 10.

"It's definitely a rush to say the very least," said Waldern, 21, from Juneau. "It's a very safe situation, so that's always good to know that I have seven different firefighters hanging around in case I screw up."

The demonstration in the parking lot closest to the Egan Building was part of National Fire Prevention Week October 8 to October 14. Faculty and student workers took turns putting out the fire contained in a square pan set up away from cars and flammable materials. A propane gas tank fed the flames.

"Some people get a little apprehensive about (extinguishers) because they do make some noise when they come out and they're pressurized cylinders," said instructor Kelly Leamer, from Capital City Fire and Rescue. With proper training a person can become more comfortable and be

better equipped to handle a fire if one were to occur, Leamer said.

The new Student Wellness and Peer Education Coordinator, Cheryl Loudermilk organized the event to educate faculty and student workers on how to properly use a fire extinguisher.

"A lot of national programs focus on alcohol, (or) other hot topic issues," Loudermilk said. "What I've chosen to do is set up a calendar based on national awareness dates. There are a core of national events that will be organized and recognized on-campus throughout the year."

The fire training was paid for by a State of Alaska Health and Social Services Grant, which also supports four peer advocates who work with faculty to promote health and wellness on campus. Because of the limited funds of the student-run organization, the event was not made open to all students. Next year the training will be open to all students for a fee, Loudermilk said.

"This is just a tiny part of what we're doing, Loudermilk said. "I guess if you put fires out in the parking lot, people know you're there."

Learning to use a fire extinguisher was useful, said Waldern, who is one of the peer advocates.

"It's really important to refresh and just always have the knowledge of



Photo by Joshua Christie / Whalesong
Fire Safety: Sophie Stradley puts out a parking lot blaze during fire extinguisher training.

how to use a tool in case you're ever put in a serious situation, which is what we are doing today, making sure people have the tools in case a serious situation arises," Waldern said.

Fire training on campus is valuable because in the last few years there have been nearly 100 fire fatalities on American college campuses, said

Capital City Fire and Rescue Deputy Fire Marshal Daniel Jager.

"The real benefit here is that it is teaching not only how to use fire extinguishers, because most students have never used one before, but it's also kind of emphasizing general fire safety," Jager said.

Fire is divided into several clas-

sifications. Class A is any fire that creates an ash, such as wood. Class B is flammable liquid. Class C is energized, such as an electrical fire. Class D is flammable metal and there is a Class K for kitchen fires. The fire extinguishers used in the parking lot, and found in near entryways and in hallways of most buildings on campus are ABC fire extinguisher, according to Leamer.

"Being able to knock down a fire is a real benefit to a building and the people, so if you catch it small and you can put it out, you save the contents and the people," Leamer said. "Just a small bedroom can be consumed in two minutes and that's not a lot of time."

Jager would like the fire department to interact more with UAS.

"If there is any kind of a fire or medical emergency, we're the ones that are responding," Jager said. "The better familiar we are with the campus layout and the students, I think the better it will be in the future if anything significant happens."

The fire department also handed out applications to students asking about volunteer fire fighting, Jager said. Volunteer fire fighters receive more training, much of it free, which can lead to being certified as a firefighter I and an EMT, Leamer said.

Marine Highway offers a scenic and secure alternative to air travel

By John S. Sonin
Whalesong

Juneau has a built-in homeland security advantage, since getting here requires photo identification. So does leaving, even if it's just a ferry trip to the nearest town.

In the wake of Sept. 11, air commuters have experienced a dramatic increase in the security screening process. Now most travelers automatically remove their shoes and surrender laptops for electronic surveillance.

While the security line at the airline has lengthened, security lines for passengers embarking on the Alaska Marine Highway System remain short. Ferry riders remain clad in both shoes and laptops. Furthermore, they

are able to carry anything legal on board.

The Alaska Marine Highway System carries passengers and cargo to 38 ports in Alaska and British Columbia, 15 of those in Southeast Alaska and Canada. The ferry routes traverse 3,500 nautical miles. For University of Alaska students, the ferry continues to be the primary avenue for a weekend getaway.

In the last five years, Alaska has spent more than \$500,000 on security enhancements for the marine highway, according to AMHS spokesman Mike Chambers. He said the funding has been invested in new personnel, bomb detection equipment and closed circuit televisions at unmanned ferry ports.

Federal regulations now require all Alaska ferry passengers to provide their full name, date of birth and citizenship, as well as government-issued photo identification. Noncommercial, unaccompanied vehicles are required to consent to a search prior to loading. And owners of commercial containers who are not regular, or trusted shippers, must consent to a search prior to its stowage.

"A full-time security officer accompanied by a bomb-sniffing dog patrol is now employed at Bellingham" said Ken Linder, supervisor of security elements for AMHS. "At the unmanned ports, security officers on-board the ferry are now responsible for identification

screening of passengers."

The ferry system recruited Linder from the airline industry late last spring and he says he is still "being brought up to speed" on the security techniques used at ports and aboard AMHS vessels.

Veteran users of the marine highway may recall seeing the baggage cart offloaded at every port and left alone in the open for public perusal after the vessel had been secured. Under the new security restrictions baggage is secured in a cordoned area and access is limited to ticketed passengers. Visitors are no longer allowed on the ferry while it's in port, unless escorted by AMHS personnel. Also, there will not be any unattended baggage permitted

in terminal buildings.

In addition, passengers traveling through border checkpoints can expect heightened scrutiny and possible delays. These travelers may again be required to produce photo identification.

These inconveniences are off-set by a 30 percent discount on ferry fares during the off-season. Chamber's describes this offer as a "successful program begun last year that has shown advantages over the same period without it."

Students can expect heightened scrutiny but, unlike with the airline industry, they'll stay shod and retain their possessions while cruising on the marine highway.

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Iran exports student, as well as oil

By David Asti
Whalesong

Manuher Monzaviyan's friends in Iran warned him that Alaska is an ice covered wilderness full of polar bears and penguins.

Despite being cautioned that he was going to "a whole place of ice," Monzaviyan applied to the University of Southeast Alaska. In August 2005 he moved to Juneau, about 6,000 miles from his home. The 21-year-old student was born near the central deserts of Iran in Kashan, a city famous for its carpets.

He chose UAS based on the recommendation of a friend who owns an auto repair shop near the Mendenhall Mall. His friend told him UAS was a great place to go to college, since it is far from the distractions a bigger city might bring.

"For the first year [in Juneau], I can say I didn't have fun," Monzaviyan said.

He was always working and doing homework for an anthropology class. Because of Monzaviyan's limited English, he spends most of his time reading.

"What would take [an English speaking student] an hour to read, takes me three hours," he said.

Currently Monzaviyan's major is general education. He has two years until completion.

He's pleased with the caliber of education at UAS. He said the Iranian teaching style directly emulates the American style of school teaching, but lacks the wide accessibility of technology available for UAS students.

"Classes are good and better than in my country," Monzaviyan said. "Teachers try to make students understand any kind of problem [that the students may not understand]."

Including his roommates at student

housing, Monzaviyan has accumulated a good amount of friends since arriving at UAS. His Alaskan friends call him "Manu" (Mah-new) for short.

Monzaviyan is tall and thin with a taciturn demeanor. His friendly face and kind smile seem eager to welcome conversation, yet he faces obstacles to making new friends traditional student do not.

"It's hard for someone to be [a] friend when speaking [English] is not great," says Monzaviyan.

Monzaviyan doesn't plan on leaving the U.S. any time soon. "I love it here" he said. After UAS he plans to "move somewhere down south," where it's cheaper to live than in Alaska.

He never would have guessed that parts of Alaska contained green rainforests. Someday he will return to Iran with stories of a soaked paradise instead of a desolate "place of ice."

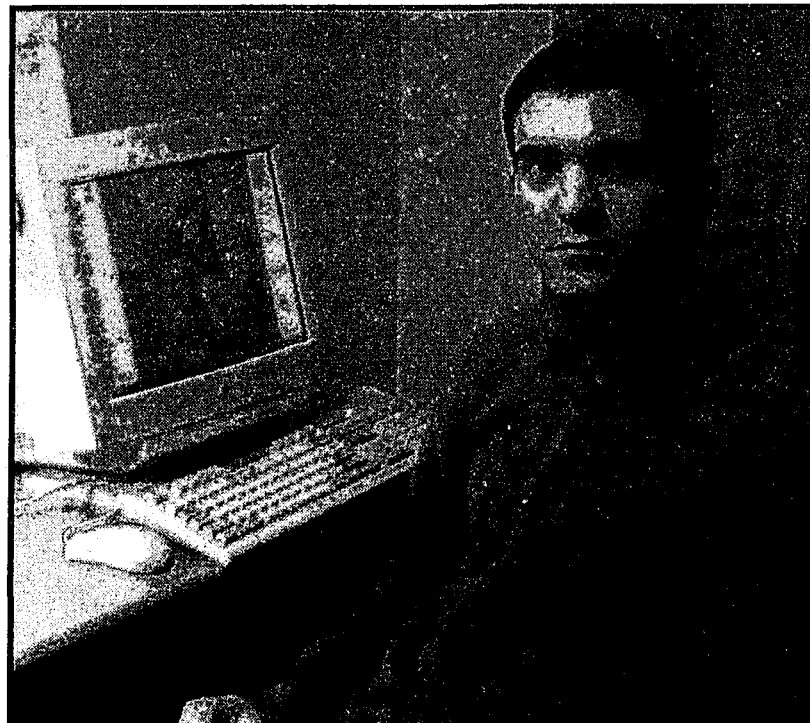


Photo by Joshua Christie / Whalesong
Far from home: Student Manuher Monzaviyan takes a study break.

Fairbanks budget crisis effects UAF students

By Molly Dischner
The Sun Star, UAF

The recent municipal election has forced the Fairbanks city government to feel a pain that most college students already know -- working with a budget deemed too small for its needs.

Voters approved two propositions during the Oct. 3 election that cut the city's ability to earn revenue from property and sales taxes. The municipal government is looking for new sources of money, but in doing so, students' wallets could take a hit.

"We lose about \$10.3 million in property tax revenues in the coming year. Elected officials are dealing with different ways to tax to replace the money," said Ron Woolf, director of the city's finance department. "There is no fat to cut at the city. Things have been pretty lean around here for quite some time."

The budget crisis comes thanks to two voter-initiated propositions. One reduced property taxes, while the other took away the council's right to create a sales tax for over a year. They were created as separate

initiatives, each meant to deal with the same problem a different way, but voters chose to accept both of them, Woolf said.

Now taxes are being considered to replace the money lost, including taxes on gross receipts and head tax. The new taxes would likely effect the purchasing power of UAF students. The gross receipts tax takes a percentage of a businesses' gross receipts. Added costs for business usually mean added costs for consumers, meaning even the price of Ramen Noodles could go up.

The head tax would create a similar situation, as a flat rate tax per employee would impact low-wage workers like college students more than those making large sums of money.

"Since I have a job, the employee tax would definitely not be cool. It might be harder for me to get a job, and since I don't get paid much, it'd make a difference in my income," said Tara Vandiver, 19, a student at UAF.

"As a young, poor, college student, jobs and money are a good thing," she added.

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SPORTS CALENDAR

Monday - 23

Intramural Volleyball begins
7 p.m.
Every Monday until Nov. 20
\$5 for the season, or \$3 per game

Fencing club
3:45 - 5:15 p.m.

Tuesday - 24

Floor Hockey Tournament
7 p.m.
No skill or equipment required
Free to Rec members, guests \$3

Open Gym Lacrosse
8:30 p.m.

Wednesday - 25

Weightroom Orientation
5 p.m.

Fencing club - see above

Soccer Open Gym
Bring a white and dark shirt and gym shoes.
7 p.m.
Free to Rec members, guests \$3

Thursday - 26

Co-ed Intramural Soccer
Every Thursday
7:00- 9 PM
\$5 for season or \$3 for guests

Monday - 30

Volleyball - see above
Fencing club - see above

Tuesday - 31

Lacrosse Open Gym
8:30 p.m.

Thursday - 2

Intramural Soccer - see above

Monday - 6

Volleyball - see above

All events are held at the Rec Center and free unless otherwise noted. Contact rec@uas.alaska.edu or 796-6544



Photo by Cody Bennett / Whalesong
UAS students frolic in the Tongass: Disc golf provides an excuse to get out in the woods.

Blended sport lures students into the woods

By Laura Lemire
Whalesong

Nestled between enormous trees, the disc golf course challenges players with mud, brush and a diverse terrain. "There is a lot of playing in and out of the woods and you're navigating through one giant maze," said Elliot Smith, an undeclared sophomore from Juneau and disc golf player. "It took a few times to figure out which way you're supposed to be going because there is no one out there showing you what's going on."

Disc golf is played with a flying disc similar to the classic Frisbee disc, only smaller. The sport has been growing in popularity in Juneau, especially since the opening of a course in 2004, Aant'iyek Park. Aant'iyek Park is just past the ferry terminal, between Auke Rec. and Pt. Lena Loop Rd., and is marked by yellow gates.

Every hole in the course is unique, providing for a range of different types of play. Players dodge trees, run up elevated slopes and hike through the thick forest to play the course's 18 holes, according to Ryan Rud, an avid disc golfer of three seasons.

"It's probably the most rugged disc golf course in America, considering that it's in an old growth forest where

the trees stand tall," said Rud, a UAS sophomore from Juneau. "It's built on the side of a mountain, so you've got your ups and downs and it's just pretty extreme. You've got to be up for a hike if you want to go."

The holes consist of 2-foot wide metal baskets marked with red flags

there that you know and you get to know," Smith said. "You make friends and you meet different people."

The course has no fees and is open to anyone wanting to drop in and try to spin a disc through the trees.

"Expect to get wet and dirty; that's all part of the fun of it."

- Elliot Smith, UAS disc golf player

and suspended on 4-foot poles. Chains hang from the rim of the baskets similar to a metal basketball net, dampening the energy of the disc and acting as a catch can. The chains help the disc drop into the basket, Smith said.

"It's fun because you can get out of the city, what city we have, and be in nature and go toss a disc," Rud said. "My favorite thing about the course is that it's secluded, it's away from everything. That's the whole thing about it for me is just being able to get away and have fun tossing a disc in the process."

Players are rarely alone in the woods though.

"There are a lot of people out

"I like how it's unmonitored and there are no rules and regulations. There isn't a time that you have to be out there," Smith said. "You don't have to schedule anything, it's really laid back."

For players craving competition, tournaments are occasionally held at the course, Smith said.

Local retailers carry the discs used in the sport and gearing up is relatively cheap, according to Rud. Discs come in a variety of designs and weights. The type of disc used varies with the person's preference and the weight usually depends on the strength of the thrower.

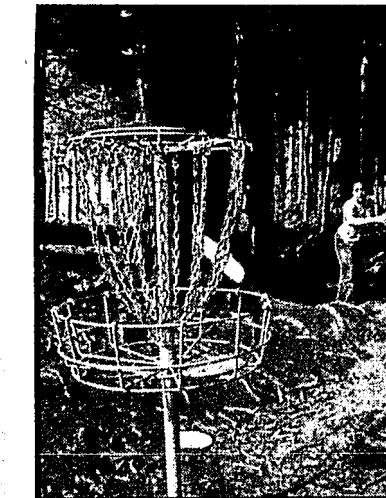


Photo by Cody Bennett / Whalesong
Score: Alumna Heather Beaudette tosses a disc into the basket.

Besides being fun, disc golf is good exercise, Rud said. As with any aerobic sport, he reminds players to bring water and be prepared to expend a lot of energy.

"I would encourage people to go out there and check it out," Smith said. "It's a lot of stomping through mud and jumping over trees and dodging stumps and breaking brush, so bring your boots and leave your high heels at home. Expect to get wet and dirty; that's all part of the fun of it."

And you thought that you had heard some strange arguments...

By Andrew Hall
Whalesong Columnist

They had been dating only a week when the marmot and the porcupine experienced their first fight. Sprawled in a vacant rabbit den after a meal of alder roots and cloudberry, the porcupine went on complaining about the incivility of anything with wings.

"You know, anybody could sit on a perch all day dive bombing rodents if they had wings," he wheezed through his two buckteeth, "and don't get me started on ravens, I mean they will seriously eat anything, absolutely anything!"

"By anything, do you mean meat?" The marmot replied stroking her tail.

No different from his friends and relatives, he bought into the typical porcupine bias that while very attractive, marmots were still just half-assed herbivores. Exposing his double chin, the porcupine looked over and confidently replied with a question.

"So, you're telling me you *actually* eat birds' eggs and rotten fish instead of roots and stems?"

He thoughtfully laid his paw on hers, implying if she was in fact a meat eater, she was one of the many who had the same problem.

"Well sometimes," she answered in a matter of fact tone. "I guess it really

depends on the time of year."

As soon as she confidently admitted that she saw no crime in eating birds' eggs and fish, she realized he wanted to back her into a corner. Maybe she had indulged in a couple of chick egg sacks in her day, but who hadn't? Being a sciurid, cousin to the squirrels and rodents of the world, she wasn't *supposed* to be picky. The generations of bad stigma surrounding the cross-species dating became evident through the arrogant, bucktooth grin of the porcupine. This pompous vegetarian, who was too fat and lazy to even come to the alpine on their first date, had the audacity to judge her? She knew she was at least a pound skinnier than the fat lug. Who did he think he was?

The silvery hair above her eyes stood up as she knitted her brow and straightened up against the bark.

"Well maybe if I could clumsily waddle all day with my face in the grass I wouldn't eat meat either! You know, not everyone can just sit around in the open because they have giant spikes in their backs."

Her mind flashed back to the week before at the pond where they met and all the sweet talking he did: The serenity of living in the forest, the berries of the fall, these were just subtle ways of him saying he wouldn't be

caught dead above the tree line. A typical porcupine, she thought, too self-indulged to ever make it out of the woods and see the rest of the world.

The quills stood up along the ridge of his back as he realized his mistake. He should have known the herbivore/meat eater topic was a bad idea; after all, this was the oldest debate between the two species, the reason their parents wouldn't approve their dating and the reason they were having a "romantic evening" in some random den. He would always stand by his vegetarian diet, but if he was going to have any chance with this silvery quilled siren, he knew he had to change the subject fast.

Before he could divert the conversation to something more optimistic, she wiggled out of the small burrow, pulling out her whiskers and cursing herself for not realizing that all porcupines were the same self-righteous herbivores she had been warned about all her life. Being a marmot, she was too fast for the accuser. She disappeared into the maze of sticks and bushes and up a steep hill, presumably heading toward the alpine.

Winded, the porcupine leaned against the outer edge of the entryway taking a lungful of the cold air and realized that the little den where he was

squatting would be a little bit colder.

The past week was really just more of an experiment, he thought. Everyone knew marmots and porcupines never matched up, though there was something about the sleekness of marmots that persuaded him to approach her in the first place. Maybe it was the fact that marmots so often looked down on his species, the thought of a challenge, going to the pond to tell his buddies that he was the one who broke the stigma, the one with the marmot girlfriend.

Up the hill, approaching the tree line, the marmot couldn't stop badger-

ing herself over the fact that she had actually considered dating a porcupine. They were all lazy vegetarians anyway, she thought. They didn't understand the feeling of hunting for food or sweating and scrambling for something that might turn out to be insufficient. She took honor in that approach to marmot life. Squinting from above the tree line into the forest below, the bushes and pines stirred as the nocturnes crept out of their holes. Amongst them, she knew the porcupine would stay inside tonight and that she would never again return to the uncertainty of the forest.

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Ketchikan campus interim director becomes permanent

Whalesong

After filling in as interim director of the UAS Ketchikan Campus since May 2005, Cathy LeCompte has officially accepted the director's position.

"You're not going to see any big changes," said LeCompte, who signed a two-year contract. "We're going to just keep on keeping on. We've been doing a good job."

Filling the Ketchikan director position adds stability to the UAS regional leadership, which includes Sitka Campus Director Jeffery Johnston and UAS regional Chancellor John Pugh.

The campus director works with local and regional faculty on the university academic plan. LeCompte said the current focus is formulating a 6-year com-

prehensive academic plan and working with Sitka to develop a distance-delivered Associate Arts degree. The three campuses work together in academic planning, so students have access to a full complement of courses between all the campuses.

"We are a regional university and it's really challenging to always remember that there are three campuses in this region," LeCompte said.

About half the 600 students enrolled through the Ketchikan campus are distance students, taking classes online from more remote locations or using the Ketchikan campus to take online classes offered through the other campuses.

"We provide a place for students here in Ketchikan to stay home and



Photo courtesy of Cathy LeCompte
Cathy LeCompte, the new Ketchikan campus director.

get an education," LeCompte said.

LeCompte moved to Ketchikan from Aberdeen, Washington in April 1999 and worked at the Chamber of Commerce as the event coordinator and fund devel-

opment director. She joined UAS as a member of the business management faculty and became the Assistant Campus Director in July 2003; she has worked as interim director since May 2005.

"It's been a meteoric rise," LeCompte said. "Along the way I've learned this campus inside and out."

LeCompte is very active in the Ketchikan community as a volunteer for the Monthly Grind, Arts Council, and First City Players. She is also the former Chair of the Ketchikan Visitors Bureau and a Girl Scout board member. She currently serves as the Steering Board Chair for Compass II community assessment and a member of the board of directors for the United Way of Southeast Alaska.

Postcards from another dimension



Brain Benders

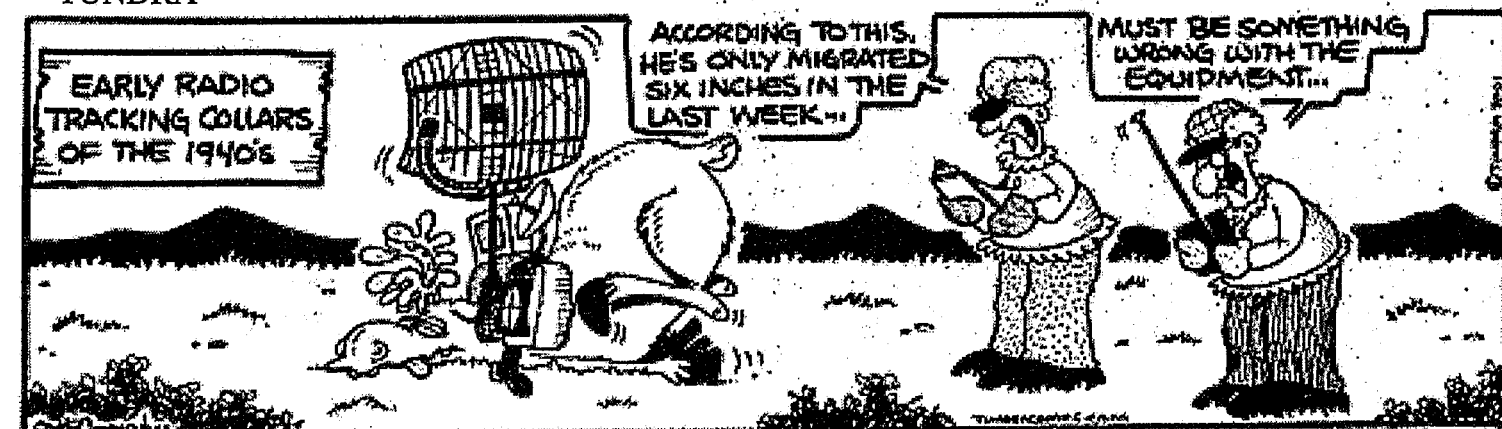
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SuDoku

Answers in next Whalesong.

TUNDRA



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Refurbished Gateway laptops, \$250-\$475 with DVD. Military discount available. (907)279-0220

Ski Sale, Nov. 4, Centennial Hall. \$2 admission. Lot's of deals.

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Misc.

Table spaces available at the Public Market Annex, ANB Hall, November 24 & 25. For application, contact the Alaska-Juneau Public Market, P.O. Box 21145, Juneau, AK 99802. metcom@gci.net 586-4072

Whalesong classifieds are free to students. Everyone else gets the first classified free, then pays \$5 for subsequent classifieds. E-mail classifieds to whalesong@uas.alaska.edu or fax to 796-6399 or drop off for the Whalesong in the basement of the Mourant Building.

Next classified ad deadline is Tuesday Oct. 31.

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Going places with National Student Exchange

By Naomi Judd

NSE participant

Exploration starts with a simple thought. Usually this thought is a notion that's been growing for a long while, but has yet to be acted upon. Whether it be the desire to learn how to sail, try out for the part in a play, or adventure to an unknown land, these thoughts are all our possible futures.

Alaska had always been riding on the distant horizon in my mind, as well as exchanging schools for a semester. While hiking one day the two thoughts collided, blending like cream and sugar. "Why not now?" My school recommended the National Student Exchange program: an easy way to

study elsewhere and transfer credits.

As a resident of New Hampshire for the last 10 years, I received quizzical looks when I said I was headed to Juneau for spring semester of 2006 through the National Student Exchange program.

Fellow lower 48ers thought I was crazy when they found I was headed to Alaska in January, and wondered what I could possibly want with such a time and place. I told them I was headed to a land where I could learn to ice climb, snowboard in the backcountry and travel on glaciers. Upon hearing this they thought I was crazier than they first assumed.

Coming to Juneau knowing virtu-

ally nothing about it was one of the best things I've ever done. The feeling one gets when stepping on a plane destined for a place where you have never been and know no one is an experience everyone should have. It has set in motion a wheel of travels for my future to roll on.

I came to know people quickly here at the small community of UAS. I fell in love with ice climbing, the people of Juneau and the beauty of Southeast Alaska. I decided to stay and experience the summer and fall seasons as well. Needless to say I can now be found wearing Xtra-Tufs and consider it a beautiful day when it pours. I have thoughts of staying longer.

Whether you want to spend one semester, a year, or even if one wanted to spend two semesters at two different universities, NSE provides a priceless opportunity. Not to mention a positive addition to your future resume.

Financial aid also carries over when you study elsewhere and fortunately most universities in the U.S. participate in this program.

I once read that the greatest expeditions should take no more planning than what one can write on the back of an envelope.

So take an old torn envelope, slip it in your pocket, and show your plan to Marsha Squires, the director

of student exchanges at UAS (she is an excellent source in planning your exchange).

When you tell people of your travels it is important you not lose sight of your goal: getting there. Many will try and deter you, such as your parents. Others will say they wish they could go there (which they can). Wherever it is that you are headed, they will say, "But it's so far away." Yes, far away, and in fact I recommend you travel further than what seems within reason. Push for the summit that is out of sight, and upon arriving, the greatest view in the world might await you.



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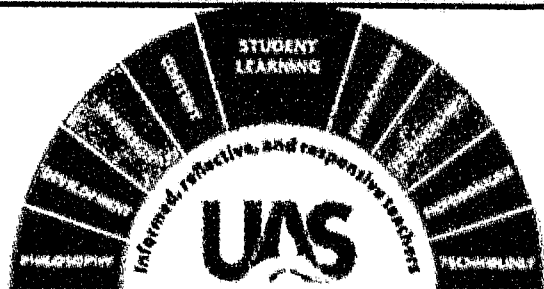
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